

During the 1st localism meeting, Chairman Powell said that localism was a broadcaster serving the needs and interest of its community, airing programming that serves the local community, listening to local voices and giving local voices a chance to be heard. I know that many people are against corporate conglomerates owning multiple media outlets in a market. I personally am a little worried about it. But the big corporations do serve a public interest. The public does want to see and hear national entertainment and opinions. People like Howard Stern (I am not a fan) do server the interest of some part of the public. I am not against the big corporations, I do believe that the FCC could serve localism better by offering more opportunities for local voices. The new LPFM service is an excellent way to do this, but its coverage is so small that it really seems like a token effort seeing how a 5-10 mile coverage (if that) can compete with full power FM. Listeners mean revenue, and that means small coverage areas don't generate enough income to promote localism against the nationally owned full coverage stations.

Another avenue is the Low Power TV industry. The LPTV laws already require locally produced programming. Many LPTV stations do local news and public affairs, local football and sporting events. They give the community a place to air its opinion. But they are restricted in coverage and have no cable carriage rights unless located an extremely small market. How can the local community be promoted when its broadcast supporters are forced to play the same game on an unlevelled playing field.

Localism is happening all over the country. I believe that nationally owned media outlets are not the problem. People want to see and hear what the big boys are broadcasting. I believe that localism is falling short due to FCC policy. Localism is here. It's everyday, nation wide, community based broadcasting, and it has been restricted by policy. Small coverage areas, no must carry, translates to fewer viewers which leads to lees income. Localism is there but is unable to be properly funded because of policy that favors the national voice. FCC, if you want localism, give the already thriving community broadcaster (LPFM and LPTV) a level playing field of rights and coverage. How can that do anything but promote the FCC's goals, public interest, competition, and fairness.

Thank you